65
138
.6

SENATE..... No. 21.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

Prisons by Counties.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT p. 17 &c.

OF THE

PRISON COMMISSIONERS.

JANUARY 1, 1877.

BOSTON:
ALBERT J. WRIGHT, STATE PRINTER
79 MILK STREET (CORNER OF FEDERAL).
1877.

SENATE..... No. 21.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PRISON COMMISSIONERS.

JANUARY 1, 1877.

BOSTON:
ALBERT J. WRIGHT, STATE PRINTER,
79 MILK STREET (CORNER OF FEDERAL).
1877.

365
M38
v.6

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
BOSTON, January 30, 1877.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives.

I have the honor herewith to transmit, for the use and information of the General Court, the Sixth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Prisons.

ALEXANDER H. RICE.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PRISONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 25, 1877.

To His Excellency the Governor.

In accordance with section 12 of chapter 370 of the year 1870, I have the honor to forward the Sixth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Prisons, for transmission to the Legislature.

For the Commissioners of Prisons,

Very respectfully,

THOS. D. HOWARD,
Secretary.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled.

In compliance with section 12 of chapter 370 of the year 1870, calling for "a full and complete report of their doings during the year preceding, stating fully and in detail all expenses incurred, and showing the actual condition of the jails and houses of correction in all the counties of the State, with such suggestions and recommendations as they may think proper," we beg leave to present the following:—

By the reappointment during the year of H. W. B. Wightman, Esq., of Lowell, the Board of Commissioners is composed of the same persons as at the date of our last annual report.

The Advisory Board of the Commission has been changed during the year by the resignation of Miss Chickering of Dedham, the withdrawal of Mrs. Leonard of Springfield, and the appointment of Mrs. Mary G. Ware of South Lancaster and Miss Abby R. Loring of Weston, who qualified July 24 and August 1 respectively.

We greet most cordially our new members, and anticipate much success from their ability, energy, and heartfelt devotion to the interests of prison reform. We cannot fail to regret the loss of our tried and valued co-laborers in the past; both of them members of the Commission from the date of its organization, October 4, 1870, and both forced to retire from their cherished work on account of ill-health.

We are indebted to Miss Chickering for the first suggestion, for the progress and the final achievement of our Massachusetts Reformatory Prison for Women. The first suggestion had its origin in her keen sense of the needs of the

Mass. St. Lib.
v. 6, 8, 12.

prisoners, her deep sympathy in their helplessness, her yearning desire for their reformation and intelligent knowledge of the best means to attain this desired end. The result is due to her unyielding resistance to all temporizing and procrastinating measures on the part of friends and all discouragements on the part of foes. We trust that Miss Chickering may be permitted to rejoice in a vast amount of good accomplished by its instrumentality.

To Mrs. Leonard much of this successful result must be traced. Her zeal, already aroused, was eager to identify itself with the work of caring for the prisoner, and her eloquence awakened and sustained the languid interest of the early movement. It is our hope that with restored health she may be enabled to re-engage in the work.

Expenses of the Commission.

Clerical services and expenses,		$26 65
Postage,		19 08
Telegrams, express and messenger,		8 30
Stationery,		10 50
Printing and binding,		6 00
Travelling expenses of the Advisory Board,		52 18
Salary of Secretary,	$2,000 00	
Travelling expenses,	107 22	
		2,107 22
		$2,229 93

Meetings.

Weekly meetings of the Commissioners and Advisory Board were held from the beginning of the year through the winter and spring. They were suspended during the summer and resumed on the 5th of October. The number of meetings during the year, of which a record has been kept, is twenty-nine. The Commissioners acting under the law establishing a Reformatory Prison for women (chapter 385 of the year 1874) have from time to time, by appointment, held conferences together relative to the work of building. A detailed statement of their doings under the Act referred to will be appended to this Report.

Statutes of 1876 relating to Prisons and doings of the Commission under them.

An Act relating to Solitary Imprisonment. (Chapter 61.)

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

Sect. 1. It shall be the duty of the officer having custody and charge of prisoners in the several prisons, jails, workhouses and houses of correction in this Commonwealth, to provide that every cell therein which may be used as a place for solitary imprisonment shall be properly ventilated, and furnished with a form of boards not less than six and one-half feet in length and not less than eighteen inches in width, raised at least four inches from the floor, and provided with a sufficient amount of bedding to protect the inmate from any unnecessary injury to health.

Sect. 2. It shall be the further duty of said officers at each of said institutions, to keep a book for the record of punishments by solitary imprisonment and to record therein each such punishment as follows: name and number, or other sufficient designation of the person punished; the day and hour when put in, "solitary"; the day and hour when released; the offence; and such remarks as may be necessary to complete the record.

Sect. 3. It shall be the duty of the prison commissioners to examine whether the provisions of this act are complied with in the several jails, workhouses and houses of correction of the Commonwealth.

Sect. 4. Chapter one hundred and forty-three of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-three, is hereby repealed.

Sect. 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved March 22, 1876.*

A copy of the law was forwarded immediately on its publication in the "Boston Daily Advertiser" to the keeper or master of each county prison in which is a cell for solitary imprisonment; also to the superintendent of the State Workhouse, and that of the House of Industry, Deer Island.

Being aware that, although it was made incumbent on the officers having custody and charge of prisoners to provide that each cell used as a place for solitary imprisonment should be properly ventilated, yet that changes which might be found necessary in order to introduce such ventilation could be made only as authorized and the attendant expense provided for, by the commissioners of the several counties,

the following letter was addressed to all keepers and masters, except the keeper of Boston Jail, into the secluded cells of which air is freely admitted, and those of Barnstable, Edgartown and Nantucket:—

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PRISONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, June 19, 1876.

DEAR SIR:—In order that the provisions of chapter 61 of the Acts of the current year, relative to the ventilation of cells for solitary imprisonment, may be carried into effect, I am directed by the Commissioners of Prisons to request you to call the attention of the commissioners of your county to any changes in such cells which may be necessary, in order that they may answer the requirements of the law. Very respectfully yours,

THOS. D. HOWARD, *Secretary.*

The results of the examination required by the third section as regards the appointments of the "solitaries" specified in the law, and the record to be kept of instances of punishment, will be presented in a general statement, including all the county prisons. The facilities for the entrance of light and air will be shown by the following table. The number of square inches of open space connected in each prison with upward ventilation could be definitely ascertained. The irregularity of shape, however, of the openings around the doors often render it difficult to decide with exactness upon their amount.

Cells for Solitary Imprisonment—Ventilation.

	Spaces for Upward Ventilation.	Spaces for the Admission of Light.
Barnstable Jail and H. of Cor.,	None.	Opening through the outer wall, 19 × 6½ inches.
Boston House of Correction,	Circular; 6 inches in diameter.	4 × 4 inches.
Cambridge Jail and H. of Cor.,	8 × 5½ inches.	In the door, 5 × 5 inches; this can be closed. Below the door, 18 × 2½ inches.*
Dedham Jail and H. of Cor.,	Upper, 7¾ × 7¼ inches. Lower, the same.	Very small; not easily measured.
Fitchburg Jail and H. of Cor.,	9 × 15 inches.	23 × 1¾ inches.
Greenfield Jail and H. of Cor.,	Upper, 7 × 9½ inches. Lower, 7 × 14.	9 × 15 inches; in the window-shutter.
Ipswich House of Correction,	None.	Below the door, equal to 5 inches square. Above door, equal to 2½ inches square.
Lawrence Jail and H. of Cor.,	Upward ventilation.	Spaces for the admission of light about equal to the average of solitaries; not easily measured.
Lowell Jail,	Upward ventilation.†	Opening in the door, 3½ × 2 inches. Above the door, 30 × ⅜ inches.
New Bedford Jail and H. of Cor.,	None.‡	In the bottom of the door, circular, 1½ inches in diameter.
Newburyport Jail,	Two openings in each.	the outer wall, 24 × 6 inches
Northampton Jail and H. of Cor.,	Upper, 8 × 7½ inches. Lower, the same.	In top of the door, 5 × 1¼ inches.
Pittsfield Jail and H. of Cor.,	4 × 5 inches.	26 × 1½ inches.
Plymouth Jail and H. of Cor.,	Half solitaries, opening in the	with two small windows, and door not measured.
Salem Jail,	Half solitaries, opening in the	with two small windows, and door not measured.
Springfield Jail and H. of Cor.,	7½ × 11 inches.	None.
Taunton Jail,	Upper, 7½ × 8 inches. Lower, 12 × 12½.	27 × 1, and 27 × ⅛ inches.
Worcester Jail and H. of Cor.,	9 × 15 inches.	24 × 2 inches.

* This is the jail *solitary*. In the house of correction *solitary* for men, there is upward ventilation through an opening 6 × 4 inches. Light admitted by 160 perforations, one-fourth of an inch in diameter. In that for women, the same upward ventilation, and there are 9 perforations one-half inch in diameter; also an open space at the side of the door, 40 × ½ inches.

† Not measured. It is the same as the other cells of the prison, effected by approved methods.

‡ This is the jail *solitary*. Those for men in the house of correction have upward ventilation through spaces 4 × 5 inches, and about 4½ × 7, respectively, with small openings for light, not easily measured. The two in the female department have circular openings in the door, 2½ inches in diameter, with sliding covers.

We cannot but call attention to the various interpretations put upon the expression "properly ventilated" by the officers in charge of prisons. Upward ventilation is furnished in all the prisons, when it is practicable; but there is a wide difference between the generous openings for the admission of light and air into the "secluded cells" of the Boston Jail and the gloomy closeness of the "solitary" at Springfield.

We can see no advantage in depriving a prisoner of pure air by way of punishment, nor in practice do we perceive any superior efficacy for the enforcement of discipline in the most repulsive cell for solitary imprisonment.

The law has certainly not accomplished the full intent of the Legislature in its enactment. Its specific requirements have been complied with in furnishing a form of boards and bedding, where the same or an equivalent had not been previously supplied, and in the matter of recording, in the manner prescribed, the punishments inflicted; but the only change made in regard to ventilation is at South Boston, which will be described in the statement of the condition of that house of correction. The most dungeon-like cells remain unchanged.

In further pursuance of the duty prescribed by the third section of the Act, a visit was made, April 26, to the State Workhouse at Bridgewater. The number of cells used for solitary confinement, seclusion, and for the safe-keeping of the temporarily insane, etc., was found to be twenty-five. These are used, however, only in small part for purposes of punishment. Most of them are places of separate confinement of those who for any reason are not suitable to be at large among the inmates of the workhouse.

Seventeen of these cells are of brick. These are well constructed. An ample supply of air is admitted; the doors are of upright iron bars with intermediate spaces two and three-fourths inches in width. The doors open into a large room or hall. Each cell connects through the wall, by an opening three by four and one-half inches, with the ventilator on the roof. The other cells are situated in various parts of the group of buildings. They are all of wood. They have no upward ventilation, but light and air are freely admitted by open spaces through the doors, most of them being grated.

A form of boards, or its equivalent, is supplied in all the cells in which prisoners are confined through the night. Six of the cells are furnished with bedstead, straw bed, and the usual bedding, and all fully answer the requirements of the law. The consideration shown in this regard for the condition of the inmates of the workhouse, many of whom are broken down in health, was especially noticeable.

August 24, the cells for solitary imprisonment in the House of Industry, Deer Island, were examined, and were found to conform to the statute in having a form of boards as prescribed. "Prisoners while in solitary confinement are furnished with not less than two blankets, and in cold weather with three." There are provided the means of ventilation common to all the cells; viz., an upper and a lower opening, seven by eight inches, both however into one flue. The opening for the admission of light is small, being a space over the door eighteen by one-half inches.

The record of punishment in both the institutions is kept as required by the statute.

2. An Act relating to the transfer to the State Workhouse of certain convicts confined in houses of correction.

This provides, section 1, that the Commissioners of Prisons may, upon the application of the overseers of a house of correction, cause any person confined therein under sentence for any offence mentioned in section 28 of chapter 165 of the General Statutes (drunkenness, being common drunkards, etc.), and chapter 235 of the Acts of the year 1866 (vagrants and vagabonds), to be transferred to the State Workhouse, there to be kept during the remainder of the sentence, or until otherwise discharged in due course of law.

Under this authority we removed, August 22, from the Plymouth House of Correction, which was at the date of transfer full to repletion, one man having 1 month to serve; three having 2, one having $3\frac{1}{2}$, one having 4, one having $4\frac{1}{2}$, and one 5 months to serve; in all, eight men. Of these, six were under sentence for the offence of being common drunkards, and two for that of drunkenness.

The last clause of the first section is, "The Commissioners of Prisons shall have the same power to discharge any person

so removed as is now vested in the overseers of houses of correction." Thus authorized, October 19, we ordered the discharge of one of the above, who was sentenced for the offence of drunkenness and had two months to serve, it appearing that if released he would be likely to support his family.

Section 2 provides that the county from which such person is removed shall pay for his support such sum per week as may be fixed by the Board of State Charities. We would call attention to the provision of law in regard to persons directly sentenced to the State Workhouse. "If any person so committed shall have a legal settlement in any city or town of this Commonwealth, the said city or town shall pay for his support such sum per week," etc. (Chapter 258, section 3, of the year 1869.) The Act authorizing removal fixes the expense absolutely on the county. The class of cases being the same, all being sentenced under the same law, we suggest that the burden of support might be more properly placed, if a provision similar to that in the clause just cited should be made in favor of counties from which prisoners are removed to the State Workhouse.

3. Chapter 148 :—

Be it enacted, &c., as follows :—

Section fifty-eight of chapter one hundred and seventy-eight of the General Statutes, is hereby amended by striking out after the word sixty-five "and has no parent, master, or kindred liable to maintain him," and by adding to the end of the section the words "and any city or town paying such sum may recover the same of any parent, master, or kindred by law liable to maintain him."

The section of the general laws above referred to relates to offences—stealing money or goods not exceeding the value of five dollars, and those against good order—committed by minors. The law, as it stood, imposed upon the county the task of ascertaining if there were persons liable for the support of such sentenced prisoners; and in case there were, to collect of them. This work can much better be done by the officers of the town or city, of whom it is now required. It also makes the city or town directly liable for the support of its bad boys, which seems to be right and proper.

4. Resolve 23 calls upon the Commissioners of Prisons to report to this Legislature a definite plan for dividing the State into prison districts, with an estimate of the expense of carrying the same into effect; and also to present an estimate of the value of the various prison buildings in the several counties, and to make such other recommendations upon the subject as they may deem proper. This requirement has been complied with by presentation of report, Senate Document No. 4.

Visits to County Prisons.

Members of the Advisory Board have, during the year, visited all the jails and houses of correction in the State, except Plymouth and Fitchburg, having made forty-seven visits, chiefly to the prisons of Boston and its vicinity.

The power of inspection conferred on them by the tenth section of the Act establishing the Commission they have exercised in behalf of the women prisoners. They have carefully examined the accommodations furnished, and the care bestowed on them. It has been their especial object to direct aright the steps of those about to be discharged. In some instances they have seen the good resolutions of these discharged female prisoners confirmed, and a better mode of life entered upon. In looking back upon the six years of the service of this Board, we are gratified with proofs of the good effect of kind and earnest words spoken in fit and favorable season. Two of the Advisory Board have, as heretofore, spent one day in each month at the State Workhouse at Bridgewater, where 184 female prisoners were reported by the superintendent on the 30th of September. The opportunity for conversation, which is freely accorded, is improved by the visitors. The sick, of whom the relative number is much larger than at the houses of correction, are visited, and, so far as may be, influences for good exerted.

The Secretary, during the first six months of the year, visited all the county prisons, except those of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket; during the second six months, all the prisons. He has made other visits when occasion demanded, as in the case of the crowded condition of a prison making the removal of prisoners necessary. He has taken part in the Sunday

services in eight of the prisons. The visits are all made without notice given, except when a Sunday is to be appointed, or there is some other special reason. The result of the inspection and observation will be given in the report of the actual condition of individual prisons, and in such suggestions as may be made under special heads.

Number of Prisoners remaining September 30, 1875, and Number remaining September 30, 1876, with Classification of same.

	1875.	1876.				
	Whole number of Prisoners.	No. of Men in the Jail.	No. of Women in the Jail.	No. of Men in the H. of Cor.	No. of Women in the H. of Cor.	Whole number of Prisoners.
Barnstable Jail and H. of Cor.,	9	3	–	1	–	4
Pittsfield Jail and H. of Cor.,	93	24	1	74	11	110
N. Bedford Jail and H. of Cor.,	174	5	–	136	28	169
Taunton Jail,	69	76	11	–	–	87
Edgartown Jail,	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ipswich House of Correction,	115	–	–	71	14	85
Salem Jail,	84	48	4	–	–	52
Newburyport Jail,	20	15	–	–	–	15
Lawrence Jail and H. of Cor.,	185	35	1	116	36	188
Greenfield Jail and H. of Cor.,	15	3	1	4	1	9
Springfield Jail and H. of Cor.,	165	31	4	90	11	136
Northampton Jail and H. of C.,	40	9	1	42	5	57
Cambridge Jail and H. of Cor.,	360	31	–	256	35	322
Lowell Jail,	67	49	16	–	–	65
Nantucket Jail and H. of Cor.,	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dedham Jail and H. of Cor.,	119	18	3	53	3	77
Plymouth Jail and H. of Cor.,	29	20	1	18	2	41
Boston Jail,	198	152	36	–	–	188
Boston House of Correction,	582	–	–	469	70	539
Worcester Jail and H. of Cor.,	167	17	2	149	15	183
Fitchburg Jail and H. of Cor.,	86	4	–	79	–	83
Totals,	2,577	540	81	1,558	231	2,410

It will be seen that the number of prisoners on the 30th of September is less by 167 than at the corresponding time last year. But during the late summer, the male department of the New Bedford Jail and House of Correction was crowded altogether beyond its proper capacity, there being, September 9, 163 men to 108 cells and 14 rooms. On the 30th, the number was reduced to 141.

The Boston House of Correction contained 43 less inmates at the close of the present prison year than at the close of the last; and we were glad to be informed on a visit, November 24, that there were about 40 less of male inmates than at the corresponding time last autumn.

The numbers at Dedham, Ipswich, and at Springfield, are materially reduced. That at Plymouth is largely increased, notwithstanding the relief afforded by the removal of prisoners. At Worcester and at Fitchburg, there is a slight decrease. At Northampton, there is an increase of 42½ per cent., though the prison is less than half full with the larger number named, there being 90 cells for 47 prisoners. At Cambridge, there is a decrease of 10½ per cent.; and at Pittsfield, an increase of 18 per cent.

Barnstable County.

Jail and House of Correction at Barnstable.

Number of Rooms, ... For men, 6; for women, 2.
Keeper and Master, ... Joseph Bursley.

September 17.—Visited by Mrs. Durant, Miss Loring and the Secretary. Number of prisoners, 3,—2 men in the jail awaiting trial in the October term, and 1 in the house of correction.

Number (in house of correction) 20 years of age and under, 1.

Work.—The prisoner sentenced to labor is regularly employed on the court-house grounds, having lost but three days during the three months since his commitment. The rooms and halls have been recently whitewashed.

The beds are filled with rye straw. Oat straw is preferred, and a supply is now engaged. The filling is changed and new or clean ticks provided twice a year.

There are no services on Sunday. An opportunity seems to us to present itself to judicious Christian people of doing good by visiting and conversing with the prisoners.

The library contains 125 volumes, but the books are most of them unsuited to interest the inmates of the prison.

Berkshire County.

Jail and House of Correction at Pittsfield.

Number of cells, ... For men, 95; for women, 24.
Keeper and Master, ... Graham A. Root, *Sheriff*.

May 6.—Number of men in the jail, 14; of women, 1: number of men in the house of correction, 66; of women, 6. Total: men, 80; women, 7.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	9
20 to 25 years of age, ...	21
committed for drunkenness, ...	6
sentenced as common drunkards, . . .	3
for vagrancy, ...	8

Work.—Since the commencement of labor, May 1, 1875, under the contract allowing the manufacture of boots, shoes, and slippers with Messrs. Millard & Butler, this house of correction has been, as a manufacturing establishment, the busiest of our institutions. There was received by the county for the labor performed, in the quarter ending July 31,—4,308 days,—$671.37; in that ending October 31,—5,932 days,—$912.62; in that ending January 31, 1876,—6,251 days,—$974.17; in that ending April 30,—5,984 days,—$957.44. Total for the year, $3,515.60.

The pay is small, certainly, considering the quality of the work done. The consideration received by the county is $12 each a quarter for all the prisoners (estimated by general average from the middle of each month), and the work, for ordinary prison labor, of three men and three women. The remainder of the contract was purchased from the 1st of last April by Messrs. Robbins & Kellogg, who paid a bonus.

Prisoners Employed and Unemployed at Date.

Number of men in jail and house of correction, . .		80
at work in the shop, ...	60	
at work in the cook-room, . . .	4	
at work outside (planting), . . .	5	
at work whitewashing, ...	1	
alleyman, ...	1	
sick, ...	2	
unemployed, ...	7	
	——	80

Understanding that at the time of change of contractors, an arrangement was made by which a larger number of men could be employed outside the shop, inquiry was made on this point. "We have what help is necessary for outside work by agreement with the contractors, and striking their time from the contractors' pay-roll." This is an important change, as profitable and wholesome employment on the land belonging to the county can be furnished to certain prisoners. There are nine acres, about seven and a half being under tillage.

Of the women, 3 are engaged in shop-work, 2 on prison-work, and 1 is sick.

October 16.—Number of men in the jail, 27; of women, 1: number of men in the house of correction, 74; of women, 11. Total, 113. For the 101 men there are at present only 72 cells. The upper story of the main prison, hitherto undivided, is to be finished in 24 cells, the flooring to be extended for a corridor to surround the entire block. The following from Sheriff Root describes the present lack and the prospect of a speedy addition to the accommodations of the prison:—

"Pittsfield, December 5, 1876.—When this prison was built, the original plan contemplated for the men's prison four tiers of cells, in all, ninety-six; but the stack was built only three tiers in height, containing seventy-two cells. For three winters, and for nearly the whole of two years past, the number of our inmates has been so large that we have had to put some of the men in the hospital rooms and in the rooms over the women's prison. We have now

about thirty-five men so accommodated. To supply this demand on the capacity of the prison the commissioners have contracted for, and have now in process of construction, the fourth tier on each side of the men's prison, or twenty-four new cells, giving the men's prison a capacity of ninety-five cells, exclusive of the one used as a stairway."

The work continues as at the date of the last visit, and the full force of the prison is employed.

The beds are filled with oat straw. The ticks are washed twice a year, but there is no rule in regard to refilling. The half-dozen which chanced to be looked at were well filled. On the complaint of a prisoner, however, who stated that he had twice called the attention of the turnkey to the fact, a bed was examined which had originally been filled with machine-threshed straw, which is entirely unsuitable for the purpose, and which had been broken and pulverized evidently by long use.

The Sunday services are, as heretofore, conducted by volunteer laborers, and the interest on the part of the prisoners is said to be even more marked than heretofore. They consist of Sunday-school instruction by classes, based on the International Series of Questions, with well-sustained singing, and general addresses by Rev. Charles B. Speare, Messrs. F. A. Churchill, George W. Foster, and other friends.

Library.—Number of volumes, 475. No new books have been added during the year. There have been, however, contributions of Harper's and Scribner's magazines. There is $75 cash on hand, which will be used mainly for rebinding books. This comes from contributions for the library by visitors in the box conspicuously placed in the guard-room. We were informed from the account kept that from the commencement of the year 1871 to date, there has been contributed $516.86. To the personal care of the officers may be ascribed the judicious selection of the books, which are interesting and attractive, and the good condition in which they are kept.

Bristol County.

1. *Jail at Taunton.*

Number of cells, ... For men, 56; * for women, 8.†
Keeper, ... Isaac G. Carrier.

April 8.—Number of male prisoners, 50; female, 7. Total, 57. These are held as follows: As "poor debtors," 2; awaiting trial, 4; continued cases, 5; sentenced to imprisonment, 3; for non-payment of fine and costs, 43.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	2
20 to 25 years of age, ...	14
committed for drunkenness, ...	28

Work.—No organized labor is carried on, prisoners committed to jail being only rarely sentenced to labor. Yet they are almost universally glad to be employed. Nine prisoners were at work at date.

Whitewashing.—On the discharge of a thirty-day prisoner, his cell is whitewashed. A coat is being laid on the entire male department; the women's side was whitewashed entire between the 7th and 11th of last month, there having been no female prisoner between those dates.

September 9.—Number of men, 55; of women, 5. Total, 60. The interior of the jail has been painted since our last visit,—the radiators, gratings and railings red, and the window bars, and the floors and brackets of the corridors, drab. Shades and colors are a decided improvement on the traditional black.

The beds are filled with rye straw. It is the practice here, in addition to washing, to have the blankets thoroughly aired and beaten from time to time. We doubt if the blankets of our prisons pass with sufficient frequency through the last-named process.

Sunday Services.—By an arrangement made by Mr. Jackson, one of the county commissioners, whose efficient care greatly promotes the interest of the public worship, the ministers of the city supply the desk at the chapel. Mem-

* Of large size, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$, and 10 feet high.
† Size, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, and $9\frac{3}{8}$ feet high.

bers of the various choirs generously contribute their services, which are highly appreciated.

Library.—New books added during the year, 75. Whole number of volumes, 150. Stringent rules regarding the care of books in the hands of prisoners are printed and placed in each volume, and they seem to be well enforced.

2. *Jail and House of Correction at New Bedford.*

Number of cells, ... For men, 108;* for women, 42.
Keeper and Master, ... CHARLES D. BURT.

April 10.—Number of men in the jail, none; of women, 1: number of men in the house of correction, 100; of women, 22. Total, 123.

Number 20 years of age and under,		20
20 to 25 years of age,		38
committed for drunkenness,		33
committed for being common drunkards,		3

Prisoners Employed and Unemployed at Date.

Number of men in jail and house of correction,		100
at work in the basket-shop,	32	
at work in the shoe-shop,	26	
alleymen, 7; in cook-room, 4; in boiler-room, 2; carpenter, 1; in the yard, 6; outside, 3,	22	
sick,	2	
in solitary,	1	
unemployed,	17	
		100
Number of women in the jail and house of correction,		23
engaged in washing,	18	
employed in the house of keeper and master,	2	
sick,	2	
unemployed,	1	
		23

* There are also fifteen rooms; also hospital accommodations for men and women.

September 9.—Number of men in the jail, 10; of women, none: number of men in the house of correction, 153; of women, 33. Total, 196. The accommodations in the male departments of the jail and house of correction are insufficient for the present number of men. Many cells contain two each for lodging, and the lower hospital is used for the same purpose.

In the basket-shop there are at work 33 men; on benches, unemployed, 16; in the shoe-shop, at work, 38; on benches, unemployed, 36. While in years previous to the present hard times, the call for articles manufactured at this prison has exceeded the supply, there are now scarcely any orders, and a large stock on hand. The following statement, made at our request by Mr. Burt, shows the condition of the manufacturing interest of the house of correction at the close of the prison year:—

Labor Department, House of Correction, New Bedford, for the year ending September 30, 1876.

SHOE DEPARTMENT.

Stock on hand, tools and machinery,	$5,652 65	
Sales merchandise during the year,	15,569 26	
		$21,221 91
Stock charged to department, Sept. 30, 1875,	$8,973 93	
Purchases during the year,	10,395 40	
		19,369 33
Balance,		$1,852 58

BASKET DEPARTMENT.

Stock on hand, tools and machinery,	$3,169 09	
Sales merchandise during the year,	4,955 71	
		$8,124 80
Stock charged to department, Sept. 30, 1875,	$2,949 88	
Purchases during the year,	3,465 32	
		6,415 20
Balance,		$1,709 60

Yours truly, CHARLES D. BURT, *Master.*

The average number employed in the shoe department, during the year, has been 34; in the basket department, 33. It was stated that not one of the 74 men we found in the

shoe-shop had learned a trade. The question which naturally arose is worthy of serious consideration,—how far this absence of early training in some handicraft was the cause of their being in prison.

Bedding is furnished to prisoners in solitary during the entire year, and not in winter only, as was erroneously stated in our last report. Some of the "solitaries" have no provision for ventilation. Mr. Thornton, one of the county commissioners, stated that the board, after carefully considering the difficulties of reconstructing the present cells, had decided to build in the reception-room of the old jail four solitary cells and a ventilating chimney, with which they will all communicate.*

Nature of Instruction given.—"Religious instruction in the chapel, with public worship on the Sabbath, Rev. Isaac H. Coe, chaplain, and reading in the female department by some one from the Union for Good Works, one hour on Friday of each week, a part of the year."

Library.—Number of volumes, 300, but they are not well cared for. The good administration, of which there are proofs elsewhere throughout the prison, does not extend to this department. Reorganization is necessary. New and readable books should be added, and strict rules against injury to them be made and enforced. The magazines, etc., belonging to the prisoners, are exchanged twice a week through the sections; also once a week through the entire prison.

* The following from Mr. Burt further describes the cells. It also explains the reason of the delay which has ensued:—

"JANUARY 2, 1877.—The solitary cells are to be 9½ feet long, 4 wide, and 7½ to 8 high, to be ventilated by a chimney. I think the iron doors and door-frames have been made, but nothing further has been done, and I do not see that anything can be at present, our prison in the male department being so overcrowded that all available space is used. The room over the space intended for the new solitary cells, which would have to be given up during the time of building the new cells, is now, and has been for the last two or three months, occupied by from six to eight persons. During a portion of the last two weeks we have had in the jail and house of correction a total of 206 to 209 daily."

Dukes County.

Jail at Edgartown.

Number of cells,	12.
Keeper,	Francis C. Smith, *Sheriff*.

The present building, which replaces the old wooden structure, was ready for occupancy in April, 1875, but by inadvertency a report of same was omitted last year. The following is furnished by Sheriff Smith:—

"The whole cost of construction of the new jail and keeper's house (attached), without furnishings, amounted to $14,182.27; including furnishings, $14,363.53. The dimensions are as follows: Of house for keeper, 21 feet in the posts, 25½ by 35 feet on the floor, with two small Ls; one being the kitchen and the other the jailer's office. It is built of wood. The jail is 28 by 32 feet on the ground and 17½ feet in the stud above the foundation. There are six cells below and six above, with halls and corridors. These are all 8 by 9 feet on the floor, the six below being 8 feet 9 inches in the upright, and those above, 8 feet."

The walls are strong, being of stone and brick. In each cell there is a ventilating slide and an opening into a shaft which provides for a good current of air. Each cell is furnished with iron bedstead, etc.

August 16.—Visited by Mrs. Durant and Miss Loring of the Advisory Board, and the Secretary. There was found only one prisoner, who was sentenced on the 11th, and is held for the non-payment of fine and costs. The cells and halls are in nice condition. The mattresses, filled with excelsior, were new at the time of the opening of the jail, and most of them have been unused. It is worthy of remark that during the summer of 1875, when thirty thousand people were supposed to have been gathered on the island, there was not a single commitment, and during the present season only one to date. Great vigilance is evidently exercised by the sheriff and his deputies, and disturbances of the peace are prevented by causing disorderly persons to return to the main land.

Essex County.

1. *House of Correction at Ipswich.*

Number of cells, ... For men, 84; for women, 34.
Master, ... Y. G. Hurd, M. D.

March 25.—Number of men, 82; of women, 17. Total, 99.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	23
20 to 25 years of age, ...	19
committed for drunkenness, ...	11
committed as common drunkards, . . .	4
committed for vagrancy, ...	14

It was gratifying to learn from Dr. Hurd that the numbers had decreased from 157 in November to 99 at date, and that the decrease has accompanied the temperance movement carried on by the reform clubs in Essex County. In the month of November, there were 20 commitments from Gloucester, and of these, 15 were sentenced for the offence of drunkenness and being common drunkards; in the three months following and the present month to date, there have been only 7 commitments from Gloucester, 6 of these being for the offences named.

Organized labor of the prison, cane-seating and shoemaking.

Prisoners Employed and Unemployed at Date.

Number of men in the house of correction, . . .		82
at work in the chair-shop, . . .	40	
at work in the shoe-shop, . . .	10	
at work in the kitchen, 4; in the yard, 4; cleaning the prison, 5; in the insane department, 2; tailors, 2; shoemaker, 1; painter, 1; in the boiler-house, 1, .	20	
sick, ...	3	
in solitary, ...	1	
unemployed, ...	8	
	——	82

The painter had just completed the ornamental painting of the office ceiling and the graining of the doors in the insane

department. The roof of the county building had recently been repaired by a prisoner; and in general there was apparent a good degree of thoughtful care exercised in giving employment to prisoners.

All the walls within the prison are whitewashed three times a year, and present a very good appearance. The deodorizing effect of the free use of lime was manifest in the prison.

October 6.—Number of men, 75; of women, 14. Total, 89.

Work.—The contract with Mr. S. A. Boynton of Rowley, under which the county received 20 cents per day's work for chair-seating, and 25 for shoemaking, closed September 1. Since then there has been no labor done in the shops until the morning of date, when fifteen men went to work under a contract for one year with Mr. Boynton for fifteen shoemakers, at 15 cents a day. It is understood that the same gentleman makes an offer of 8 cents a day, during one year, for the rest of the labor of the prison, at chair-seating, while the overseers are willing to contract for same at 10 cents.* The effect on the prisoners of the want of employment was said to be unfavorable.

For the filling of beds oat or barley straw is used. The beds were found well filled with clean straw.

The plentiful supply, in the prison diet, of vegetables raised by the labor of the prisoners on the five acres of highly cultivated and very productive land, deserves especial notice.

The Sunday services commence at 9 o'clock. We report with great satisfaction the wisely directed and persuasive labors of the chaplain, Rev. John Pike, D. D., of Rowley. Sunday is evidently a welcome day to the prisoners. After the exercises in the chapel, Dr. Pike has a personal interview with each prisoner who is to be discharged during the week. It may confidently be hoped that this expression of kind interest and the impressive word spoken inspire good purposes, and strengthen good resolutions.

The library was found in an unsatisfactory condition. The

* The following is received from Dr. Hurd in answer to inquiry :—

"Ipswich House of Correction, Jan. 12, 1877.

"No contract has been made for the employment of the men since September 1, except for fifteen shoemakers at 15 cents per day. All the rest are idle. There is some prospect of a contract for one year at 10 cents."

county has been quite liberal in appropriations for books, which are, on the whole, well selected, but there has been wanton mutilation, which it has seemed impossible to prevent. The master was, however, about to adopt strict rules for the preservation of the books. For the enforcement of such rules it is absolutely necessary that each book be examined in the presence of the prisoner about to receive it, and its condition noted. This, in order to fix any injury done on the offending party. It certainly will be very much to be regretted if it is found impracticable to circulate the books provided for this prison. The number of volumes is 400.

Dr. Hurd has for some years rendered an annual report to the sheriff, which is published in the local newspapers of the county. From that dated January 1, 1876, we quote some interesting statements, and a recommendation which has general application. It must be observed, however, that the tramp nuisance of 1875 was decidedly lessened during the year just closed: —

"The increase of commitments in 1875 over the previous year is 56; increase for vagrancy alone, 44. This increase I believe is due to the depression in business, by which so many laborers are thrown out of employment. Some of them are on the whole honest, disposed to work, and having sought employment unsuccessfully, prefer the county house to begging in the street. In a large majority of instances intemperance is the prime cause of their destitution. Seventy-six of the 108 vagrants report themselves, on admission, intemperate. Restoration of the business activity of the country would reduce the commitments of vagrants to the hopelessly intemperate and the professional tramps. . . .

"The practical operation of all our laws seems to be that the habitual vagrant manages to get committed for three or four months in the winter to the house of correction, which is to him no punishment, but on the contrary the very thing he wants.

"If the law of 1869, so far as it relates to vagrants, were made imperative, with no alternative, and the term of sentence not less than one year, I believe it would have a wholesome effect. The tramp would soon find new and more congenial routes of travel, better suited to his habits and tastes. . . .

"The temperance revival which now agitates the community, so recently inaugurated by Temperance Reform Clubs in the cities and towns of the country, is accomplishing great, and, I hope, lasting

good. Its effect upon the commitments to this prison is already felt. This is especially true of Lynn and Gloucester. For the months of November and December there have been three commitments from Lynn for drunkenness. The interest in the temperance movement in Gloucester commenced early in December. In November there were fourteen commitments for drunkenness from the Gloucester Police Court. For the last four weeks we have had none."

2. *Jail at Salem.*

Number of rooms, ...	For men, 18; for women, 2.
Keeper, ...	JOHN D. CROSS.

February 6.—Number of men, 61; of women, 7. Of these, 2 are sentenced to imprisonment by the United States court, 37 are held for non-payment of fines and costs, and 29 are awaiting trial.

It will be observed that there is an average of more than three to a room, a condition of things the bad effects of which need not be pointed out. For inmates of a jail, solitude is manifestly more advantageous than society.

October 6.—Number of men, 27; of women, 5. Total, 32. The court is now in session at Lawrence, and the numbers reduced by prisoners sent thither for arraignment.

The cells are well whitewashed. The walls of one room were pointed out as being thickly overlaid with coats of lime and in need of scraping, which is about to be done.

The beds are filled with fine meadow hay. The quality is good, and most of the beds examined were well filled. The blankets examined were in a good state of cleanliness.

There were only two instances of punishment during the year closing September 30.

The Sunday services are unchanged; the ministrations of the chaplain, Rev. George L. Collier, being highly appreciated.

Library.—The number of volumes is 50, being a slight increase over that of last year. The outlay for instruction (recognized by the law as legitimate and proper) is for this prison, in the important department of reading matter furnished, very small.

3. *Jail at Newburyport.*

Number of rooms, ... 8.
Keeper, ... JAMES W. CHENEY.

March 27.—Number of men, 8; of women, 1. Total, 9. Of these 5 are awaiting trial, and 4 are held for non-payment of fine and costs. Number committed for drunkenness, 3. There is noticed a similar, though not so great, a reduction of commitments for drunkenness as at Ipswich. The building is antiquated (built in 1815), and unfit for its purpose. The addition of the bathing-room, which is supplied with hot and cold water, and the change in the mode of heating from the "box" wood stove in each room, to large heaters in the halls, made last year, have accomplished all that is practicable in the way of improvement. The walls are clean and well whitewashed, and the rooms are kept neat and tidy.

October 6.—Number of men, 15; no women. The beds are filled with oat straw. In some of them the straw was badly broken. The rule is to furnish clean blankets to each new prisoner, and the blankets are generally washed after thirty days' use.

There are no Sunday services.

There is no library. There has been, however, since October, 1875, when an appeal was published in the city papers, a steady supply of "Harper's Monthly Magazine," and other good periodicals. A kind interest is manifested in this matter, which we are glad to record.

4. *Jail and House of Correction at Lawrence.*

Number of cells, ... 62 single and 60 double.
Keeper and Master, ... HORATIO G. HERRICK, *Sheriff*.

May 24.—Number of men in the jail, 10; of women, none. Number of men in the house of correction, 103; of women, 31. Total, 144.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	29
20 to 25 years of age, ...	32
committed for drunkenness, ...	14
committed as common drunkards, . . .	2
committed for vagrancy, ...	15

Labor.—The contract for the labor of the prison was given up February 14, 1875; since which time from twenty to twenty-five prisoners have been employed at twenty cents a day, but no general employment has been secured. After energetic efforts to effect a contract, it was decided to employ the prisoners directly by the county in basket-making. A frame building has been erected in the rear of the north wing, a supply of oak timber obtained, and a few men are now engaged splitting and shaving timber for weaving. An overseer and instructor has been appointed, who is also an officer of the prison. Since March 11, fitting and closing boots have been done in the workshop at eight and one-half and seven cents a pair. The average profit for the first month over the cost of material and pay of overseer, is computed to be twenty cents per day per man. Wool is taken in for picking. Material for making canvas slippers has been purchased by the county commissioners, and a few men are at work on them. Activity and ingenuity are manifest on the part of the county officers and the master in providing employment for the sentenced prisoners. At this date, none of the men in jail are at work.

Number of men in the house of correction,		103
at work in the shop,	24	
picking wool,	8	
in the basket-shop,	7	
alleymen and cleaning prison,	5	
in the kitchen and boiler-room,	8	
in the yard,	5	
outside (let out to hire, farming),	8	
tailoring,	2	
sick,	3	
unemployed,	33	
	——	103
Number of women,		31
at work sewing and knitting,	25	
in the kitchen,	3	
in the house of keeper and master,	3	
	——	31

The beds are filled with rye straw, and seem to be well cared for.

December 27.—Number of men in the jail, 19; of women, 5; number of men in the house of correction, 144; of women, 33. Total, 201.

Progress toward the full employment of the prison labor is uneven. "During the summer and early autumn, the major part of the prisoners were employed." To-day, there are (beside hallmen, cooks, etc.) only 35 men at work. Arrangements, however, are making for the use to its full capacity of the basket-shop, and a supply of piecework in fitting and closing boots is expected.

The Sunday worship is well sustained by Rev. C. U. Dunning, stationed by the conference as chaplain of the prison, being also city missionary. In the Sunday school, which immediately follows, the services of six teachers are kindly rendered.

Library.—A few books have been added during the year, making the whole number, September 30, 400. The exchange of magazines and newspapers belonging to the prisoners is allowed under proper regulations.

January 21.—Mr. Herrick reported good hope for full employment in the shoe-shop, sample work having been sent to parties who contemplate furnishing piecework to the prison.

Franklin County.

Jail and House of Correction at Greenfield.

Number of cells, ... For men, 24; for women, 8.
Keeper and Master, ... Solomon C. Wells, *Sheriff.*

This house of correction has a workshop (unused) 50 by 36 feet on the floor. This statement is made to correct an error in the last year's report.

May 3.—Number (all men) in the jail, 9; in the house of correction, 8; total, 17. Employed on the day of visit,—as hallmen, 2; in the yard, 2; unemployed, 13.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	6
20 to 25 years of age, ...	2
committed for drunkenness, ...	3

All the walls within the prison have been recently whitewashed. The beds are in good condition and well cared for.

The want of employment, and indeed of any occupation for mind or body, is accompanied by an appearance of sullenness and discontent and by an insolent demeanor, such as we have observed in no other prison.

October 14.—Number of men in the jail, 2; of women, 1; number of men in the house of correction, 4; of women, 1. Total, 8.

Religious Services.—Four or five young men conduct services each Sunday afternoon, commencing at 4 P. M., consisting of Bible reading and exhortation and singing, which last is made a very interesting and attractive feature. They also bring for the prisoners papers and periodicals. This work of love is gratefully received by the prisoners, and the effect is said to be manifestly good.

There is no library worthy of mention.

Hampden County.

Jail and House of Correction at Springfield.

Number of cells, ... For men, 116; for women, 30.
Keeper and Master, ... Addison M. Bradley, *Sheriff.*

May 5.—Number of men in the jail, 22; of women, 3; number of men in the house of correction, 86; of women, 23. Total, 134.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	21
20 to 25 years of age, ...	42
committed for drunkenness, ...	38
committed as common drunkards, . . .	3
committed for vagrancy, ...	8

Only the house of correction prisoners are employed as yet, the work not being sufficiently advanced to receive jail prisoners in the shop, as is usually done.

Prisoners Employed at Date.

Number of men in the house of correction, . . .		86
at work in the shop, ...	77	
at work in the cook-room, ...	3	
of alleymen, ...	3	
in "solitary,"	1	
sick, ...	2	
	——	86

Number of women in the jail and house of correction,	.	23
employed on shop-work,	12	
otherwise employed,	4	
sick,	4	
unemployed,	3	
	——	23

The contract of Mr. L. C. Smith for the labor of the prison expired on the 1st of January; work was, however, continued on the terms fixed by same until 1st of March, after which date the prisoners were for two months unemployed.

May 1st, there went into operation a contract with Messrs. Cutler, Warner and Co. of Bernardston. This allows the making of carpet slippers, the same work previously carried on. The firm agrees to pay three cents a day for the labor of each prisoner sent to the shop, and has the privilege of employing the prisoners for a second and third year at five cents each per day.

This is the smallest per diem for prison labor named in the State, the acceptance of which by the board of overseers can only be accounted for by the extreme depression of manufacturing interests. Especially does the forestalling of the action of future boards seem to us likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the county. The prisoners are, indeed, cared for during the hours of labor without direct expense to the county for supervision. But this is a poor return for the minuteness of the wages received. The whole transaction illustrates the injurious policy of depending entirely on contractors for the employment of the labor of a prison. Were the county prepared to set the prisoners at work, their net earnings could not be less, after deducting the expense of superintendence. In addition, there would be this advantage, that the administration would be uniform, free from unwarranted interference, and in the hands of responsible officers.

The high walls of the interior of the prison were observed to need whitewashing. As large a surface of fresh lime as is practicable, should help to purify the air of a prison.

October 17.—Number of men in the jail, 32; of women, 5; number of men in the house of correction, 90; of women,

13; total, 140. Work, that described in the record of previous visit. Number at work in the shops: men, 86; women, 8.

For the 75 men at work in the principal shop to-day, there is but a single closet. This is provided with plumbing and water, but has no upward ventilation, so that the odor extends into the main room. A request was left that the attention of the county commissioners be called to the insufficiency of the accommodations, and the importance of providing for an upward current of air.

The bed-filling used is oat straw. The beds were found well filled, but neglect was observed in regard to the cleanliness of the ticks.

The provisions were examined, at both visits, and found to be of excellent quality.

The Sunday services (Rev. William Rice, chaplain) are, as heretofore, of a very interesting character. They consist of worship with preaching at 9 A. M., and Sunday school for men at 4 P. M. In the latter, the chaplain is assisted by several gentlemen, whose voluntary aid is highly appreciated.

The library has received no additions of books during the year, and but few contributions have been recently made of magazines and other reading matter.

Hampshire County.

Jail and House of Correction at Northampton.

Number of cells, ... For men, 67; for women, 23.
Keeper and Master, ... Henry A. Longley, *Sheriff*.

May 4.—Number 20 years of age and under, . . 2
20 to 25 years of age, ... 12
sentenced as common drunkards, . 6

Whole number of prisoners, 38.

Number of men in the jail, 11; in the house of correction, 23. Total, 34.

Employed and Unemployed at Date.

In the shop: shoemaker, 1; making baskets, 5; painting, 1,	7	
Alleymen and cleaning,	2	
In the kitchen,	2	
In the yard and garden,	8	
Unemployed,	15	
		34

Number of women in the jail, 1; in the house of correction, 3. They are employed in washing and mending.

For the work on the river embankment, in progress at the date of our last visit, there was received for five men, $1.50 each per day, bringing about $300 to the county in addition to a considerable amount made over to their families in flour and provisions. This encouragement to efficient labor is in the line of the most advanced thought of authorities on the subject of prison administration.

Beds.—Husk mattresses are purchased for the prison. The filling is not changed as often as it should be.

October 15.—Number of men in the jail, 9; woman, 1. Number of men in the house of correction, 37; of women, 4. Total, 51. Eight of the men in the jail are awaiting trial, and one is a United States prisoner.

Work in the shop ceased at the end of July. We have previously been able to report steady employment for most of the sentenced prisoners, obtained by evident painstaking on the part of the county commissioners and overseers acting in concert. Prisoners are ordered to serve their sentences here by the courts sitting in the adjoining county, five being sent from Greenfield in April and six in August, with the expectation that sentences to labor can be enforced here, but the workshop is unused. We are informed that arrangements are in progress by which it is expected that work (basket-making) will be renewed the first of November.

At the date of this Report it has not been possible to obtain information of any work secured for the prisoners.

The Sunday services are sustained by Mr. Daniel Kingsley,

one of the overseers, Mr. George W. Hubbard and Mr. Levi P. Norton. The generous gift of song by members of church choirs, finely accompanied on the cabinet organ, may well be recognized as a refining and beneficent agency.

The library, which we had reason to expect would be increased, has only been improved by the elimination of rubbish. The books left are scarcely better than those removed, being with few exceptions diminutive in size, antiquated and uninteresting.

Middlesex County.

1. *Jail and House of Correction at East Cambridge.*

Number of cells,	For men, 263.*
Keeper and Master,	Charles J. Adams.

April 19.—Number of men in the jail, 24; of women, 1. Number of men in the house of correction, 208; of women, 35. Total, 268.

Number 20 years of age and under,	41
20 to 25 years of age,	65
in house of correction for drunkenness,	25
in the house of correction, sentenced as common drunkards,	9
in the house of correction for vagrancy,	7

The manufacture of brushes is carried on at this prison by and for the county.

At date, 88 men are at work in the drawing-shop, and 38 in the finishing-shop, with 22 in the saw-room and elsewhere; in all, on brushmaking, 148. Of the 49 otherwise employed, the list of modes of occupation shows that careful provision is made for the setting at work of the prisoners. It includes shoemaking, tailoring, painting, coopering and barbering. Seven are engaged in washing. Thirty are unemployed, and five are in solitary.

* Also, one debtors' room and two liberty rooms.

Number of women in jail and house of correction,	.	36
Sweeping,	3	
House girls,	2	
Drawing brushes,	5	
Making and mending,	19	
Sick,	3	
Unemployed,	4	
	—	36

There are no means of ventilating the principal workshop except by the opening of windows. There should be a ventilating chimney and apertures in the walls near the floor, in order that a current of fresh air may pass upward through the room.

Whitewashing is done in some part of the prison every week day, except when the weather is unsuitable. The mattresses are filled with husks, and are made by an upholsterer (a prisoner), "the husks being cleansed and renewed as far as necessary each year."

Religious Services.—On alternate Sundays, Protestant services are conducted by Rev. W. O. Holman, chaplain of the prison, and those of the Roman Catholic Church by Rev. H. R. O'Donnell. They begin at 8 A. M., and are immediately followed by the Sunday school for men. This is sustained, as in years past, by a devoted band of teachers, Mr. James S. Barrelle being the superintendent. It is made very attractive and interesting. Although attendance is voluntary, nearly all the prisoners are uniformly present. The Sunday school for the women has its session at the same time in their workroom, and is under the charge of Misses Durgin and Baldwin, the matrons, with some assistance by ladies from without. Both schools seems to be effective and well sustained agencies for good. The regular attendance of Rev. A. Stewart, city missionary, who frequently addresses both the schools, is worthy of notice.

September 13.—Number of men in the jail, 31; no women. Number of men in the house of correction, 259; of women, 34. Total, 324.

Number of men at work in the shops and yard, 256. The women are fully employed in the manner described at the last

visit. The orders for brushes are sufficient to prevent any large accumulation.

The following statement for the year ending Dec. 31, 1876, is furnished in response to our request by Mr. C. N. Clark, superintendent:—

Brush Department.

Stock on hand, Dec. 31, 1876,	$10,885 78	
Sales of brushes in 1876,	49,332 00	
		$60,217 78

Average number of prisoners employed, 170.

Stock on hand, Dec. 31, 1875,	$15,171 00	
Purchases of material for manufacturing during the year 1876,	19,797 78	
Amount paid for services of instructors and engineer,	3,276 00	
Salary of superintendent,	1,400 00	
		39,644 78
Balance,		$20,573 00

The library is nearly worthless, and has not been renewed for a long time. It is asserted that it is impossible to keep it in good condition on account of the injury done by the prisoners to the books. We feel bound to say that in houses of correction where personal care is given to the matter, proper rules printed and enforced, and the volumes actually examined and their condition noted before delivery, the books are kept in good condition and made useful. We regret to be obliged to report this large prison without this important means of usefulness. The gift of Mrs. Anson P. Hooker of 80 numbers of the "Atlantic Monthly" and 65 of the "Galaxy" is worthy of grateful notice. A considerable number of "Harper's Monthly Magazines" have been also sent in during the year for the use of the inmates.

2. *Jail at Lowell.*

Number of cells, ... For men, 54; of rooms for women, 15.
Keeper, ... CHARLES KIMBALL, *Sheriff*.

May 24.—Number of men, 29; of women, 20. Total, 49. Of this number, 1 is detained as a witness, and 2 are

United States prisoners. There are employed to-day in the kitchen, stable, and in prison work, 7 men; in washing, etc., 7 women. There seems to be thoughtful care exercised in distributing the work of the prison, but enforced idleness necessarily prevails.

The beds are filled with excelsior. The filling is changed in the month of March.

The cells had all been recently whitewashed, also the air-chamber, a space some four feet in width between the inner walls of the two stacks of cells. Each cell opens into this space, from which a current of air passes through the roof, and effective ventilation is produced. When a cell is vacated it is scalded with alum water. The prisoners wash their cells three times a week.

A school for men has been sustained in this prison for four years. Some prisoners have acquired good knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic. It was recently closed on account of the discharge of the prisoner who had given the instruction, there being no prisoner suitable to continue it.

December 26.—Number of men, 25; of women, 12. Total, 37. Of the men, 1 is a United States prisoner, 6 are awaiting trial, 5 serving direct sentence of imprisonment, and 13 are held for non-payment of fines and costs.

An important provision has been made for the comfort of the women prisoners. In the record of the visit of the Commissioners to this prison last December, it was mentioned that the women's side, which is the north wing, was found uncomfortably cold, and that double windows were recommended. We are informed that outside windows were at once put on. The protection proves ample, and the rooms are warm.

Chaplain Thomas Haworth continues his good work, and has the esteem and confidence of the prisoners. He spends the morning of Sunday in visiting the prisoners and distributing religious reading. In the afternoon he conducts religious services, with preaching. The good offices of the Lowell Reform Club are gladly recorded. Their addresses and temperance songs, their expressions of sympathy and desire to help, have been very acceptable, and, it is hoped, beneficial. They have also invited the prisoners to visit their room on

their discharge, to receive encouragement and assistance to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors.

The library is fairly well selected for its purpose, but is too small, consisting of only 84 volumes. The books are in good demand, and an opportunity for exchange is given daily. Reading matter also comes to the prisoners by mail and otherwise.

Nantucket County.

[Town and county one organization.]

Jail and House of Correction.

Keeper and Master, ... Rowland Folger.

August 16.—Visited by Mrs. Durant and Miss Loring, of the Advisory Board, and the Secretary. The exterior of the buildings glistened with unsullied whitewash. There is no prisoner. The buildings are well cared for by the keeper, and it is evident that the occasional prisoner held here while awaiting trial is kindly treated.

One man having four months to serve was, July 13, removed by order of the Commissioners of Prisons to the house of correction at New Bedford.

Norfolk County.

Jail and House of Correction at Dedham.

Number of cells, ... For men, 72; for women, 40.
Keeper and Master, ... John W. Thomas, *Sheriff*.

March 8.—There was mentioned last year the extension of the west wing 100 by 50 feet, and the excellent workshop, store, boiler, and bathrooms finished therein. The space formerly used for a workshop, the floor over the guard-room, being thus vacated, there has been finished on it three rooms for hospital purposes; viz., a front room, 17 by 24 feet, two middle rooms, 14½ by 11, and a back room, 14½ by 12. The remainder is transformed into a chapel, the dimensions of which are 60 by 38 feet. The height of all the apartments is 18 feet. The appointments of the chapel are church-like, and the county commissioners have taken evident pains to make it suitable for public worship. The services in the guard-

room were liable to the disturbing influence of the ordinary business of the prison, beside that the associations of the place were unfavorable to worship.

Number of men at date in the jail, 26 (10 of these are United States prisoners); of women, 1: number of men in the house of correction, 107; of women, 1. Total 135.

Number 20 years of age and under,		18
20 to 25 years of age,		39
committed for drunkenness,		12
committed as common drunkards,		8
committed for vagrancy,		39
Number of men in the prison,		133
employed at date, in the shop,	93	
in the kitchen (4), in engine-room and outside (6),	10	
in the laundry,	2	
in the halls and other parts of the building,	12*	
unemployed,	16	
		133

The steamers, oven, and all the appointments of the kitchen, bakeroom, and laundry, are new, of excellent patterns, and are altogether satisfactory in their working. Two tubs connected with the boiler have been set in the women's wing. This is an important change, as the women do not now use the laundry, where the principal prison washing is done by men.

The work of scraping the walls of the cells is being thoroughly done through the entire prison, and whitewash laid directly on the stone wall. The improvement which this inaugurates, is a very important one. It is designed now to systematize the labor daily expended in cleaning the prison. The bedsteads are being cleansed with spirits of turpentine, and painted. With the advantages thus gained, the floors also being of stone and easily washed, the cells will be kept free from vermin.

* Some very nice work in inside painting is being done by prisoners, saving the county several hundred dollars.

August 5.—Number of men in the jail, 22 (4 of these are United States prisoners); of women, 4: number of men in the house of correction, 48; of women, 4 (3 awaiting trial, and one held for non-payment of fine and costs). Total, 78.

Number at work in the shop, 43; otherwise employed, 16. The women are engaged in sewing for the prison.

Excelsior mattresses are used. It is the rule to change the filling once in six months.

Religious services on Sunday, commencing at quarter before nine, are conducted by Rev. W. A. Cottle of East Dedham, recently appointed chaplain. The Bible class, sustained for many years by Miss H. B. Chickering, has been given up.

Seventy volumes were added to the library in January. A prisoner acts as librarian, and does his work faithfully.

It is the rule and practice of this house of correction to provide employment for the prisoners, if it is within the range of possibility to obtain it. The county commissioners and overseers confer together, and act in harmony in efforts to dispose of the labor of the prison. The following explains the policy pursued in the year just closed:—

Boston, March 25, 1876.

C. C. Churchill, Esq., *Overseer House of Correction.*

Dear Sir:—The Secretary of the Commissioners of Prisons asks me to state the amount for which the prison labor is furnished Mr. Buffum for the present year. Please inform me. At an interview with the Secretary, I told him that in the dark days of December you stipulated for the compensation at $1,000, in addition to the new fitting up of machinery for his work, with benches and fixtures, which has to be done in a uniform shape, and in accordance with our directions, and to our satisfaction. That in this mode, we avoided that portion of expense which related to his specialty, and were not under the necessity of purchasing a very long schedule of machines and implements, which Mr. Buffum owned, but which it would have cost us a good deal of money to supply, and which, if purchased, we might soon disuse, in case a change of work were requisite, with the contingency or probability of great loss.

That if we could not get any outside contractor to take the labor per contract, it would be inexpedient for us to venture into a new work on the account of the county, with a dull market and second-rate articles to offer, it being better to keep our labor employed in the present crowded condition of our cells, and submit to the loss we suffer, rather than fly to "ills we knew not of."

If this statement is accurate, please so certify; or amend to conform to the arrangements of the overseers.

Yours truly, NATH. F. SAFFORD,
Chairman of County Commissioners.

DEDHAM, March 25, 1876.

Hon. NATH. F. SAFFORD:

DEAR SIR:—The foregoing statement appears to me to be correct in every particular,—$1,000 being the sum to be paid for the labor of the prisoners for year from January 1, 1876, and the reasons given for letting the labor for so small a price are correct.

C. C. CHURCHILL,
Chairman of Board of Overseers of House of Correction.

A note, dated December 21, says: "The overseers, after diligent inquiry and ample advertising for contract to employ the labor of the prisoners for the year 1877, stipulated for the same with Mr. Buffum, the present contractor, at the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars."

Two women have been removed by order of the Commissioners of Prisons from this house of correction to that at East Cambridge.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

Jail and House of Correction at Plymouth.

Number of cells, ... For men, 32.*
Keeper and Master, ... A. K. HARMON, *Sheriff*.†

Number in the jail, 6; all men: number of men in the house of correction, 29; of women, 1. Total, 36.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	3
20 to 25 years of age, ...	13
committed for drunkenness, ...	2
committed as common drunkards, . . .	2

Work.—Mr. Glover takes the shop and employs the prisoners in so far as he can find suitable piecework, paying the

* There is one room, being the upper story of the old jail, assigned to women.

† James Bates, Esq., died October 5. He was first chosen sheriff in 1860, and had been in charge of the prison as keeper and master for nearly seventeen years. Capt. Harmon was appointed to the vacancy, and chosen sheriff November 8.

county what he can afford for their labor. This arrangement seems to be the best that could be made in view of the small and uncertain business that can be carried on. Up to the first of last November, work in making boot-heels was obtained, and employment could be given to unskilled hands. Since that time only shoemakers, ten in number, could be employed, and they but half the time. There seems, however, to be good effort made to furnish the prisoners with labor. The amount received by the county for the labor of prisoners for the year ending September 30, was, as will be seen in the table on page 57, $439.20.

August 15.—Number of men in jail, 16; of these, 11 are awaiting trial, 2 are United States prisoners, and 1 a "poor debtor"; number of women in the jail, 1: number of men in the house of correction, 36; number of women, 3. Total, 56.

At work in the shop, 24; elsewhere employed, 6; men unemployed, 22.

The beds are filled with meadow hay, which seems to be well cured, and is sweet. The beds are refilled three times a year.

Religious Instruction.—Without a chapel or convenient place for meetings, the maintenance of public worship is attended with difficulties; but the chaplain, Mr. Edward Hathaway, is represented as manifesting a personal interest in the prisoners, and, by his labors among them, exerting a beneficial influence.

At a cost of $90, sixty books have been purchased, and are about to be added to the library.

It will be perceived that the number of men in the prison is 52, while there are only 32 cells for their occupancy. But, beside the lack of proper accommodations for lodging, the contracted space within the prison walls is altogether too small for the wholesome confinement of so many. For this reason, there were removed, by order of the Commissioners of Prisons, August 22, eight men to the State Workhouse at Bridgewater, as stated on page 13, and, September 5, four men to East Cambridge. November 27, five men were removed to the house of correction at Dedham.

Suffolk County.

1. *Jail on Charles Street, Boston.*

Number of cells,* 209.†
Keeper, ... John M. Clark, *Sheriff.*

March 20.—Number of men, 157; of women, 26; total, 183.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	26
20 to 25 years of age, ...	54
committed for drunkenness, ...	3
committed as common drunkards,‡ . .	2

A large force of men is detailed for daily service, under an officer, in cleaning the prison, and the work is done with thoroughness and scrupulous fidelity. Precautions are successfully taken against impurity of air and offensive odors within the prison walls.

The mattresses are filled with palm-leaf, the upholstering being done within the prison. The work of emptying the beds, cleaning the leaf, and refilling, goes on most of the time, each bed being refilled in a clean case once in seven or eight months. There is drawn over each mattress an outer sack, which is changed each time a cell receives a new occupant. This practice, which we have not observed elsewhere, is highly favorable to wholesome cleanliness. There are also twenty-five beds filled with African moss. These are designed for sick and feeble prisoners.

August 3.—Number of men in jail, 177; of women, 26. Of these there are held as "poor debtors," 9; detained as witnesses, 12; for non-payment of fines and costs, 76; on direct sentences, 10; awaiting trial, 96. The female department is statedly visited once or twice a week by ladies, who seem to be the means of doing much good.

In place of the old wooden buildings in the yard, there has been erected a brick stable. Connected with this is a day

* Also 6 cells in the building at the Charles Street entrance, designed as a lock-up for prisoners not fully committed, and three padded cells.

† There are also 8 large rooms.

‡ Committed to await trial.

room, to take the place of the shed formerly provided for the accommodation of persons detained as witnesses. A portion of the yard is also set apart for their use.

Chaplain Rufus W. Cook continues in his efforts to promote the spiritual welfare of the prisoners by visiting them in their cells, it not being feasible to gather them for public worship. He is also able frequently to be of service to them by attendance upon the courts. Miss Burnham's services are very valuable.

No books are reported as belonging to the jail. On account of the very brief stay of most of the prisoners, it has been found impracticable to keep the watch and care necessary to preserve the books placed in their hands. There is, however, an abundant supply of reading matter sent to the prisoners, which, on being found suitable, is placed in their hands.

Office Suffolk County Jail, January 24, 1877.

Mrs. A. L. Chamberlain is the matron having the care and charge of the work done by the women. The wife of the sheriff has attended to the wants and necessities of all female prisoners, and in that sense is a matron of the jail, but without salary.

Miss Burnham visits the jail almost daily (I think as the agent of the Boston Children's Aid Society), and attends to the boys and any of the women who may desire her assistance.

Very respectfully yours,

D. F. Bradley.

One woman having ten months to serve was, March 3, removed by order of the Commissioners of Prisons from this jail to that at East Cambridge.

2. *House of Correction at South Boston.*

Number of cells for men, 457.* (The women are lodged in a dormitory.)
Master, ... M. V. B. Berry.

March 14.—Number of men, 548; of women, 75; total, 623.

The following statistics are from the report to the Board of Directors, etc.:—

* Also 4 rooms available for dormitories.

"Committed from May 1, 1875, to April 30, 1876, inclusive: men, 815; women, 101; total, 916.

	Males.	Females.
Number 20 years of age and under,	222	15
20 to 30 years of age,	379*	45*
30 to 40 " "	124	27
40 to 50 " "	68	10
50 to 60 " "	14	4
60 to 70 " "	6	–
70 to 80 " "	2	–
Total,	815	101"

There were committed during the year, for drunkenness, 99 men and 16 women; as common drunkards, 2 men; for vagrancy, 9 men.

Number of men at date,		548
in shop No. 1, on jobwork,	148	
in shop No. 2, " "	97	
in repair-shop, finishing, etc.,	53	
making slippers, on contract,	38	
at work in the prison and yard,	65	
in school,	48	
in the hospital—patients, 14; nurses, 3,	17	
in "solitary,"	7	
unemployed,	75	
		548

An invoice of goods is received, with directions for making up, and the entire work, including the packing, is done by prisoners, under the direction of Mr. E. F. Cushing, cutter and overseer. Twelve of the prisoners are engaged in cutting. The slipper-making is the only contract-work of this prison. The school-room is in charge of an officer; the teachers are prisoners, selected for the purpose on account of fitness for the work. It is continued only while there is a large number of unemployed prisoners, one of the shops being used for a school-room. "The progress made by most of the scholars, especially in reading and writing, has been highly satisfactory." [Report of the Master, as above.]

* It is stated by the clerk of the prison, that two-thirds of these numbers may be taken for prisoners 20 to 25 years of age.

Number of women at work in shop, finishing, etc., 32.

The prison has not been crowded during the winter to the extent that was anticipated, and the dormitory mentioned as in preparation last November has not been used. Ventilation and whitewashing seem to be thoroughly attended to, which is most important, in view of the fact that the cells are very small, over half of them being only three and one-half by seven feet on the floor, and seven feet high. An officer is in charge of each wing, the supervision of the cells and corridors being his entire work. The beds are filled with rye straw, and they are filled as the officer in charge deems necessary.

The walls and ceiling of the women's dining-room were found recently whitewashed, the tables covered with white cloths and neatly set. One woman, who, last November, made a dangerous assault on the matron, has been kept secluded, and now stands indicted for the offence. The general deportment of the women prisoners is represented as good. Misconduct at table is rare, and deprivation of its privileges for a time is found to be a sufficient punishment.

August 31.—Number of men, 466; of women, 73. Total, 539. The general appearance of the prison is unchanged, and calls for no special comment. The men are all at work, most of them on full time. The school is closed. All the women able to work are employed.

Work for this prison, except that of "forty men under contract, employed by Mr. Jason Wentworth in the manufacture of slippers," for whom forty cents each per day is received, is obtained by an agent employed by and acting under the direction of the board of directors. The piece-work done, as previously described, consists mainly of overalls, for which an average of $1.25 a dozen is received; California jumpers, $1.50; and pantaloons, for which various prices, ranging from $2.50 to $6.80, are received. The supply of work has been fluctuating. Mr. Little, the president of the board of directors, comparing the year which closed May 1 with that preceding, says: "At our house of correction there has been no decrease in the prices charged for manufacturing, the only drawback to a more favorable result being a lack of work, which is accountable for solely by reason of the

condition of trade. The house of correction compares favorably with all the institutions of which we have any knowledge, and the board are satisfied that, with a revival of business, there will be ample employment for the prisoners in the manufacture of clothing, with satisfactory returns. The institution is well supplied with flour, fuel and bedding; and appearances indicate a decreased expenditure and increased income for the coming year." [Report of the Board of, etc.]

The amount reported as received for the labor of prisoners for the year ending April 30, is $26,934.36; for the preceding year, $42,220.58.

There is reported from the house of correction, daily, to the office at Boston, the commitments, the list of sick and their condition, the punishments, the discharges, and the visitors to the prisoners and those who visit the institution. There is also rendered a weekly return of the same in fuller detail, and, further, a semi-monthly condensed report of punishments.

The Sunday services are those of the Roman Catholic Church, which commence at 10 A. M., conducted by Rev. M. F. Higgins; and those of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which begin at 2 P. M., conducted by Rev. J. H. Clinch, chaplain. Choice between the two is given to the prisoners, with the privilege of attending both. There may properly be noticed here the faithful services of the chaplain in his daily visits to the prison. These are made in the afternoon, when he has an interview with each prisoner who is to be discharged on the following morning.

Library.—Number of books added during the prison year, 447; whole number of volumes (November 25), 1,269. Of these, about 100 are in the hospital library. This is not only the largest, by far, of our prison libraries, but a greater proportion of the books are readable than are those of any other. The good selection is owing to the unwearied care and kind interest of Mr. Clinch.

November 24.—Examined the solitaries with reference to the additional amount of air admitted. The wooden casing of the outer iron door has been removed, leaving between the door and the wall irregular open spaces. There is also an open space below this door of one-half inch by eighteen

inches. These apertures admit all the air which can pass through the openings in the inner door, also of iron plate, which has been placed on the inside of the wall. These openings are one-fourth of an inch in diameter and twenty-three in number. The double door is designed to prevent articles being passed in to prisoners in solitary confinement. The upward ventilation is through an opening in each cell, six inches in diameter.

It was gratifying to learn that the number of prisoners was about forty less than at the corresponding season the previous year. As a provision for the comfort of the sick, a piece of carpeting has been placed on the floor by the side of each bed in the prison hospitals.

Worcester County.

1. *Jail and House of Correction at Worcester.*

Number of cells, ... For men, 173*; for women, 24.
Keeper and Master, ... A. B. R. Sprague, *Sheriff*.

Number of men in the jail, 21; of women, none; number of men in the house of correction, 119; of women, 13. Total, 153.

Number 20 years of age and under, ...	29
20 to 25 years of age, ...	29
committed for drunkenness, ...	48
committed as common drunkard, . . .	1
committed for vagrancy, ...	7

The work done in the shop is cane-seating. This is preferred on account of its cleanliness. Many of the men, especially those coming from the northern part of the county, are accustomed to it. The men mentioned in the following statement, as in the shop, were standing at their forms, but unemployed. The agreement with the parties from whom work was taken had expired, and the supply of cane been exhausted on the last working day. It is expected, on the part of the master, that a new agreement will be made, or,

* Also four hospital rooms, and one "poor debtors" room.

this failing, that the county will procure material and proceed on its own account. Should the present condition of things, however, continue, it is the intention to have seats placed at the forms and the younger prisoners organized into a school.

Number of men in the prison,		140
in the shop,	75	
at work in the cookroom,	7	
alleymen,	15	
at work outside,	6	
at work in the boiler-house,	2	
painting,	3	
copying,	1	
sick,	1	
unemployed, beside those in the shop,	30	
	——	140

The women are all engaged in washing.

The mattresses are being filled with "excelsior," for the second time during the year. The work is done by an upholsterer, a prisoner. They are unusually good beds. The bed-frames are newly painted, having been previously immersed in kerosene. This is done in a tank of a suitable size,—a very effectual mode of cleansing. Water is introduced into every section of the male department, with plumbing in each cell, thus obviating the necessity of using buckets. As regards the preservation of cleanliness and the general administration of the prison, there continues the systematic thoroughness which has previously been reported.

October 17.—Number of men in the jail, 17; of women, 2; number of men in the house of correction, 156; of women, 21. Total, 196.

The north wing (the remaining part of the old prison), which has formerly been appropriated entirely to women, has been divided by a brick partition. The cells on the west side, 24 in number, are assigned to men. The only entrance to this part is by stairs from the kitchen, which is in the basement. The women's side opens into the guard-room. The change is an important one, as cells which are greatly needed can be utilized. At date there is just a man to a cell—173.

In the early summer the interior of the prison was painted throughout,—the cell floors lead color, the doors, gratings and corridor railings a light shade of umber. The effect is very good in reflecting the light admitted.

Work was resumed May 15, after one week's cessation. It is furnished by S. K. Pierce and Dunn Brothers of Gardner. The price paid is $3\frac{7}{10}$ cents for filling common seats, and others in proportion. The prison administration extends to the shop, an officer being in charge as overseer. There can be no doubt of the advantage to the discipline of the prison of this undivided authority.

Number of men in the shop, 97. Beside those otherwise employed outside the shop, there are 16 men, 6 of whom are masons, at work on the barn (of brick) in process of construction on the grounds.

The religious exercises consist of Sunday school at 9 A. M., superintended by Mr. George H. Kendall, who is assisted by an earnest corps of teachers; and services conducted by the chaplain, Rev. William T. Sleeper, at 4.15 P. M. The deep interest manifested by Mr. Sleeper in their welfare cannot fail to make his ministry to the prisoners effective.

A few books have been added to the library during the year, making the whole number 500. There have also been donations of "Harper's Magazines."

2. *Jail and House of Correction at Fitchburg.*

Number of cells, ... For men, 77; for women, 4.
Keeper and Master, ... Benjamin D. Dwinell.

May 1.—Number of men in the jail, 6; of women, none: number of men in the house of correction, 75; of women, 3. Total, 84.

The farm contains forty acres, and part of the prison labor is well directed towards its improvement.

Number of men in the prison,		81
at work in the shop,		50
at work in the kitchen,		5
at work in the boiler-room,	. . .	1
alleymen,		5

Number whitewashing,		1
at work outside,		8
in "solitary,"		1
sick,		7
unemployed,		3
		81

The prices received are five cents a seat for common chairs, six and a half for dining-chairs, and so up, being 25 per cent. less than those obtained last year.

The entire iron-work of the prison, window-bars, doors and corridors, have been painted, and present a very good appearance. The beds are filled with "excelsior." They have just been refilled, about 600 pounds of new material having been used. The blankets are washed once in the winter, and once in two months in the summer. A well-made wooden chair has been placed in each cell, a decided improvement on the bench. The same has since been furnished at Worcester.

Dr. Jewett, physician of the prison, said, "Seven cases are reported to-day, three of them surgical. Previous to the present time, however, there has been but very little sickness during the last six months. I consider the site of the prison very favorable to health."

The Sunday services are made interesting to the prisoners. They begin at 4 P. M. There is no Sunday school. The chaplain is Rev. C. R. Harding of Lunenburg.

The library, which is a good one, was found in excellent condition. This result has been secured with only a single punishment by solitary confinement. Some who have injured the books have been punished by depriving them for a time of the use of the library. The officer examines each book as it is given out, and makes a minute of any imperfection. The prisoners are made to understand, both by word of mouth and by the printed rules, that no defacement or mutilation of a book will be allowed. The books most used have been rebound. The number of volumes at the close of the prison year was 450.

On the 9th of July, the main building, including the work-shops, office, chapel, kitchen, the house of the keeper and master, and the barn, were burned, doubtless by an incen-

diary fire set in the barn. The prison proper was saved, and most of the movable articles of the jail and the master's residence, as well as the prison books and records, were saved. The insufficient water-supply of the prison was soon exhausted, and the only other source was the river, 1,500 feet away. Had there been one hydrant on the premises it is thought all but the barn might have been saved. The loss in the buildings was estimated at about $50,000, and that of furnishing the house, offices and workshop as before, $2,000.

It was decided by the county commissioners to rebuild without a contract, provided Hon. William O. Brown of the board would take personal charge of the work. In reply to a letter Mr. Brown writes :—

"Fitchburg, October 29.

"We had at the time of the fire about seventy-five men. On consultation with the sheriff we found that he could not accommodate them at Worcester, and that we should be obliged to provide for them out of the county or keep them here. Some very temporary buildings were put up to cook in, and the men set to work in clearing away and assisting in the rebuilding. I have had the general charge of the work, and have made all the purchases of materials. We have a competent man to take charge of the brick work, and another of the carpenter work. In one more week of good weather we shall have the building all up and finished outside, and this work has been nearly or quite one-half done by prisoners."

January 8.—Mr. Brown writes :—

"To-day the keeper and master, Major Dwinell, moved into the house, which is nearly completed. The office and chapel are not quite finished. About the first of February we expect to have the buildings complete.

"The cost of building to January 1, is $29,465.03. I am very confident that the whole outlay will not exceed $30,000 for the buildings complete and in running order. Major Dwinell and his assistants have contributed largely to the success of the undertaking by their watchfulness over the work."

There is included in the amount of cost given above, "Prisoners' work valued at least at $3,500." On visiting the prison November 4, when there were found fifty-one men and three women, the Secretary was informed that during the

first two months the labor of the prisoners was especially valuable, when the full force of hands could be employed on the stone walls, in hod-carrying and laying floors.

Number of days' work done: In July (began on the 17th), 1,282; in August, 1,823; in September, 1,526; and in October, 1,176. At date, about twenty men are at work, being mostly skilled hands. The testimony was that the prisoners employed had worked efficiently and well. The building presents a good appearance, and the interests of the county have been most carefully consulted in the method of its erection, and by the faithful care and unremitting attention to the work on the part of the commissioner in charge.

Connection has been effected with the water-supply of Fitchburg, which furnishes an ample head to reach a fire in any part of the building.

There were raised, last season, on the farm, 20 tons of hay, 650 bushels of potatoes, and an ample supply of vegetables.*

* "January 28.—Work is to begin in the shop February 1st, frames and material to be furnished by Heywood Brothers." The prices agreed upon are not stated. They are probably the same as those received at Worcester.

*Expenses, Receipts, and Balances.**

	1875.			1876.		
	Expenses.	Receipts from Labor.	Balance against the Prison.	Expenses.	Receipts from Labor.	Balance against the Prison.
Barnstable Jail and House of Correction,	$1,383 24	–	$1,383 24	$1,132 78	–	$1,132 78
Pittsfield Jail and House of Correction,	14,686 72	$756 96	13,929 76	13,603 61	$4,392 72	9,210 89
New Bedford Jail and House of Correction,	32,426 12	7,903 88	24,522 24	30,486 35	3,562 18	26,924 17
Taunton Jail,	12,002 00	–	12,002 00	11,176 63	–	11,176 63
Edgartown Jail,	620 13	–	620 13	280 45	–	280 45
Ipswich House of Correction,	11,858 97	4,421 05	7,437 92	16,319 29	3,616 92	12,702 37
Salem Jail,	9,576 18	–	9,576 18	10,127 58	–	10,127 58
Newburyport Jail,	2,247 63	–	2,247 63	2,615 72	–	2,615 72
Lawrence Jail and House of Correction,	20,894 69	2,409 32	18,485 37	24,127 05	2,096 15	22,030 90
Greenfield Jail and House of Correction,	1,952 45	–	1,952 45	2,230 81	–	2,230 81
Springfield Jail and House of Correction,	15,553 86	5,409 00	10,144 86	14,911 82	1,618 71	13,293 11
Northampton Jail and House of Correction,	7,468 72	913 52	6,555 20	7,872 04	347 88	7,524 16
Cambridge Jail and House of Correction,	31,399 88	24,360 99	7,038 89	30,252 50	27,045 04	3,207 46
Lowell Jail,	7,396 16	–	7,396 16	6,532 22	–	6,532 22
Nantucket Jail and House of Correction,	72 73	–	72 73	133 72	–	133 72
Dedham Jail and House of Correction,	19,742 46	3,131 95	16,610 51	19,600 69	500 00	19,100 69
Plymouth Jail and House of Correction,	6,954 80	752 07	6,202 73	8,819 93	439 20	8,380 73
Boston Jail,	22,821 37	–	22,821 37	23,194 67	–	23,194 67
Boston House of Correction,	100,443 64	33,647 21	66,796 43	92,970 94	27,358 28	65,612 66
Worcester Jail and House of Correction,	31,638 05	6,238 95	25,399 10	24,915 50	4,857 15	20,058 35
Fitchburg Jail and House of Correction,	15,278 16	4,428 46	10,849 70	14,021 99	3,124 51	10,897 48
	$366,417 96	$94,373 36	$272,044 60	$355,326 29	$78,958 74	$276,367 55

* For interesting and valuable comparative statistics relative to the number of prisoners, also to the receipts, etc., of the county prisons for the last twelve years, we refer to the last Annual Report of the Board of State Charities, pp. cvii., etc., and 156 and 157.

Diet.

There having been presented last year a full diet-table, including all the county prisons, it is only necessary to say that the changes made during the year have been slight. They have been principally toward a greater proportion of vegetable food, which seems to us in the right direction. The diet at Fitchburg was changed during the time of rebuilding, and fare suitable in kind and variety to men laboring out of doors furnished.

Health of the Prisoners.

The prevailing health of inmates of the county prisons has been good during the year ending September 30. The deaths relative to the whole number of prisoners have been few.

East Cambridge.—"Two have died during the year and none have been pardoned on account of sickness supposed to be beyond the reach of medical skill."

Lawrence.—"No deaths this year; one pardon for the cause named."

New Bedford.—"Number of deaths during the year ending September 30, one. No person has been pardoned on account of sickness during that time."

South Boston.—"There were pardoned on account of sickness, four. Deaths, nine."

Pittsfield.—"There have been no deaths in this prison during the year. One was discharged by pardon, September 2, on account of disease presumably fatal. He died September 19."

Inquiries on this point have not been made at the other prisons.

Labor.

There have been generally, on the part of county officers, energetic efforts in the face of great difficulties, to employ prisoners sentenced to labor. The advantage of work viewed as a reformatory agency can hardly be too highly appreciated.

Libraries.

We are happy to record a general increase of reading matter furnished to prisoners. The choice of books is a matter of great importance. The marked success of Mr. Clinch,

chaplain at South Boston, in sustaining the interest in reading on the part of prisoners, led the Secretary to address him a letter asking his views, based on long service in this department. The following is his reply :—

House of Correction, Boston, September 2, 1876.

Dear Sir :—In reply to yours of yesterday, I beg to say that 447 books have been added to the library of this institution since September 30, 1875. These books have all been purchased by myself, using my best judgment in the selection. Of course, I am obliged to purchase many without knowing much of their contents, but I can generally form some estimate of their tendency. I endeavor to give the preference to such books as combine instruction with interest. I have found by an experience of over sixteen years that it is useless to purchase for prison-reading books of *expressly* religious character, though occasionally such are called for, and always supplied when required. The bulk of our library consists of History, Biography, Voyages and Travels, Periodicals (Littell is always in demand), and general "light literature,"—Dickens, Scott, and Cooper, are in greatest request.

Very sincerely yours,

Jos. H. Clinch, *Chaplain.*

Religious Agencies.

Section 40 of chapter 178, General Statutes, provides that—

"The keeper or master shall, at the expense of the county, provide for each prisoner under his charge, who is able and desirous to read, a copy of the Bible or of the New Testament, to be used by such prisoners at proper periods during their confinement, and the county commissioners may in their discretion and at the expense of their county, provide moral and religious instruction for the prisoners confined in the jails and houses of correction of their respective counties."

This covers the salary of chaplain, and any expense that may properly be incurred suitable to sustain public worship, with preaching and, where practicable, the Sunday school.

In giving the result of our observations we but repeat the opinion expressed by the best authorities, that the application of the truths of religion, with the usual accompaniments of

public worship, is the most effective of all means of uplifting the minds of prisoners, leading their thoughts toward the future, and so inspiring the desire for the higher life. It is found that the public meeting is looked forward to with pleasure. Reluctance to attend is the rare exception. A great opportunity is presented to those who address them. We are happy to report an appreciation of this opening to the heart on the part of chaplains. Faithful service is rendered. Out of Suffolk County, however, the compensation seems to us quite inadequate. A chaplain can do much good, and if his services in some of the large prisons we might name could be extended into the rest of the week, with suitable remuneration afforded, a work for good might be done which cannot be otherwise effected.

Instruction.

Section 41, as above, gives the following authority :—

"The county commissioners of each county, and the aldermen of the city of Boston, with the sheriff of the county, may at the expense of the county or city, furnish suitable instructions in reading and writing for one hour each evening, except Sundays, to such prisoners as may be benefited thereby and are desirous to receive the same."

This section is interpreted by county officers to warrant, as it doubtless was intended to do, the furnishing of means of learning to those prisoners who would profit by them, and at such times as would not interfere with the discipline or labor of the prison. School-books have been furnished at Northampton and at Salem. This is probably done in other county prisons. In Lowell jail we have been glad to report, from year to year, a well sustained school, now discontinued for want of a suitable person for teacher. At South Boston there was a school from November to March. In both of these we gladly report faithful work done by the teachers, and good progress made on the part of pupils.

General Condition of the County Prisons.

The Advisory Board, whose inspection and scrutiny in their special department have been careful and conscientious, re-

port, after their visits for the year, that the number of women prisoners and their condition have not materially changed. The same may be said of the male prisoners. Their condition is unfavorably affected, as in former years, by the want of sufficient help in the administration of the prisons. Except the sheriff, whose official duties necessarily absorb a considerable part of his time and thought, there is in several of the prisons only one officer to more than fifty men; and in Springfield only one to over a hundred. The work in the office, attending the reception of the prisoners, making the entries in the books from the mittimuses, together with the occasional copying of the same, obtaining by examination personal description of each prisoner, and recording it, preserving the statistics, and making the returns required by the statutes, together the duties to be performed on the discharge of a prisoner, occupy much of his time and thought. The wonder is, that with this undue strain they perform their functions so well. But there are duties of supervision and general care which they must necessarily leave undone. An addition to the official force would be the part of wisdom, as well as of benevolence. Frugality in some of the counties descends to parsimony. The well-directed labor of good and efficient men can nowhere be more beneficial, and in the long run money-saving to the community, than in the prisons. Expenditure for the compensation of such officers is wise economy, since through their instrumentality the moral well-being of prisoners, and so the best interests of the community, may be promoted.

JOSEPH BURNETT,
S. W. BOWLES,
H. W. B. WIGHTMAN,
THOS. D. HOWARD, *Secretary*,
Commissioners of Prisons.

PAULINE A. DURANT,
MARY G. WARE,
ABBY R. LORING,
Advisory Board.

JANUARY 25, 1877.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

Reformatory Prison for Women at Sherborn.

The Commissioners respectfully report that the exterior of the group of buildings, and the outside works therewith connected, are substantially completed.

Inside work in the various departments is in such a state of forwardness as justifies the Commissioners in presuming that the prison will be ready for delivery in the summer of 1877.

The Commissioners would also state that the expenditures have been kept within the estimates, and that in their opinion no other than the original appropriation will be needed to finish the entire group of buildings in accordance with the plans approved by the governor and council.

For furnishing and provisioning the various prison departments, salaries of officers, etc., appropriations by the Legislature will be needed.

The Commissioners, with the aid of the Advisory Board, will be prepared, early in the session, to render such detailed information as may be desired.

The annexed table will present the condition of the expenditures and appropriation to January 1, 1877 :—

	Appropriation.	Expended.	Unexpended.
Mayo & Baker, building,	$222,018 00	$156,800 33	$65,217 67
Phillips Manuf'g Co., heating,	18,480 00	10,988 76	7,491 24
Land,	9,253 00	9,253 00	–
Miscellaneous,	50,249 00	33,720 26	16,528 74
	$300,000 00	$210,762 35	$89,237 65